

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NA, NO, NATO

SUBJ: EXERCISE TEAMWORK AND DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS

REFS: (A) STATE 183081, (B) OSLO 3455, (C) COPENHAGEN 2365,

(D) USNATO 3989, (E) STATE 173615, (F) USNATO 3946

SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICERS DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS
US SUGGESTION FOR NORWEGIANS TO INVOLVE DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS
IN EXERCISE TEAMWORK. THEY RAISED NUMBER OF PERTINENT QUESTIONS
AND INDICATED THEY WOULD GIVE US EARLY REPLY. END
SUMMARY

1. DCM AND POL COUNS MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ACTING DG
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS LEIF EDWARDSSEN AND OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR
DEFENSE MATTERS HAAKON FREIHOW JULY 28 AND RAISED US SUGGESTION
THAT NORWEGIANS CONSIDER INVOLVING DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS IN
EXERCISE TEAMWORK 76. EDWARDSSEN SAID NORWEGIANS AGREED ON DESIREA-
BILITY FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS GENERALLY TO GAIN DIRECT INFORMATION ON
MILITARY AFFAIRS AND EXERCISE. HE SEEMED INCLINED TO ACCEPT
OUR RATIONALE FOR NORWAY TO EXTEND INVITATION, BUT HE RAISED A
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NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT LOGISTICS, MANNER OF EXTENDING SUCH

AN INVITATION TO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND TIME NEEDED TO CONSIDER THE SUGGESTION. HE SAID NORWEGIANS WOULD CONSIDER OUR SUGGESTION IN OSLO AFTER CONSULTING WITH THEIR NATO MISSION AND GIVE US AND EARLY REPLY.

2. AS TO THE LOGISTICS, THE NORWEGIANS POINTED OUT THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD STATED THAT IT WAS ALREADY TAXED TO THE LIMIT BY RESTRICTED HOUSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES WITH CSCE OBSERVERS AT THE EXERCISE (REF F). IN VIEW OF OUR SUGGESTION, HOWEVER, NORWEGIANS WILL DISCUSS THE LOGISTICAL POSSIBILITIES AGAIN WITH DEFMIN.

3. AS TO THE INVITATION ITSELF, THE NORWEGIANS HAVE SEVERAL CONCERNS. THEY POINTED OUT THAT GON COULD APPROPRIATELY ONLY INVITE OBSERVERS TO THE LAND PORTION OF THE EXERCISE. SINCE THE OCEAN PART WOULD LIKELY BE MORE DRAMATIC AND IMPRESSIVE, BUT WAS UNDER NATO CONTROL, EDWARDSSEN WONDERED IF ANY THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THAT PART OF EXERCISE. HE ALSO QUESTIONED THE RATIONALE FOR INVITING ONLY THE DANES, STATING THAT IN HIS VIEW A BETTER CASE COULD BE MADE FOR INVITING NORWEGIANS AND ICELANDERS AS WELL TO OBSERVE A NORTHERN FLANK EXERCISE.

4. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER AN INVITATION BY THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD BE PRECEDENT SETTING, IN WHICH CASE THEY WOULD PROBABLY FIND IT NECESSARY TO CONSULT WITH OTHER NATO GOVERNMENTS, AS ALLIES HAD ON CSCE OBSERVERS, TO SEE IF SUCH INVITATIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH NORWAY'S NATO MISSION. IN THE MEANTIME, THE NORWEGIANS WOULD ALSO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING DANISH OR OTHER OBSERVERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING BILATERAL DEFENSE EXCHANGES OR POSSIBLY THROUGH INVITATIONS FROM NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THEIR COUNTERPARTS. IN ANY CASE, THEY THOUGHT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO GET THEIR REACTION TO INVITING THEIR PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. IN VIEW OF THESE QUESTIONS, EDWARDSSEN WONDERED WHETHER NORWAY WOULD HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CONSIDER AND TO CONSULT
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WITH ALL APPROPRIATE PARTIES ESPECIALLY DURING THE VACATION HOLIDAY PERIOD AND THEN TO MAKE THE NECESSARY LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE THE EXERCISE BEGINS NEXT MONTH.

6. COMMENT: EDWARDSSEN DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. WE BELIEVE, THOUGH, THAT HE AGREED THAT OUR SUGGESTION HAS MERIT AND THAT THE NORWEGIANS WILL GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND SEEK TO PROVIDE AN EARLY REPLY. WE THINK, ALSO, HOWEVER,

THAT, ASSUMING THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS CAN BE WORKED OUT, THE NORWEGIANS WILL BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE PRECEDENT-SETTING ASPECTS OF THE INVITATIONS AND WILL WANT TO CONSULT FULLY WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. THUS THE TIMING FACTOR COULD AS WELL BE LIMITING.

7. IN VIEW OF NORWAY'S CONCERN ABOUT SENSITIVITIES OF OTHER ALLIES, EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN USNATO'S EVALUATION OF WHETHER INVITATIONS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED IN NATO FRAMEWORK AND WHAT IF ANY PROBLEMS OTHER NATIONS MIGHT RAISE.
ANDERS

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